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Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

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I. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in New York from 23 to 27 February 2009 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/234. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting held 10 meetings. Interactive discussions on the themes of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa were held at the 3rd to 8th meetings, from 24 to 26 February 2009. Interactive discussions addressing barriers and constraints facing small island developing States in the six thematic issues were held at the 2nd meeting, on 23 February 2009. Interactive discussions on interlinkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation, relevant to the same themes were held at the 9th meeting, on 27 February 2009.

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the seventeenth session of the Commission, Gerda Verburg (Netherlands), who made an introductory statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 23 February 2009, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement.

4. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, introduced the reports of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation relating to: agriculture (E/CN.17/2009/3); rural development (E/CN.17/2009/4); land (E/CN.17/2009/5); drought (E/CN.17/2009/6); desertification (E/CN.17/2009/7); Africa (E/CN.17/2009/8); and interlinkages and cross-cutting issues (E/CN.17/2009/9).

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Bangladesh (on behalf of the Least Developed Countries), Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Oman (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Arab Group), Senegal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group), Canada, the United States of America, the Russian Federation and Australia.

B. Agenda and organization of work

6. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2009/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation:
   (a) Agriculture;

(b) Rural development;

(c) Land;

(d) Drought;

(e) Desertification;

(f) Africa.

3. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.

7. At the same meeting, it was agreed that the candidates for Vice-Chairpersons endorsed by the African States Group, Kaire Munionganda Mbuende (Namibia); the Eastern European States Group, Tania Raguz (Croatia); and the Latin American and Caribbean States Group, Ana Bianchi (Argentina), would act in that capacity during the Meeting until their formal election at the beginning of the Commission's seventeenth session. The Meeting was then informed that Vice-Chairperson-designate Ms. Raguz would also serve as Rapporteur of the seventeenth session of the Commission and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.

C. Proceedings of the session

8. At the 1st meeting, on 23 February, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman-designate, Mr. Mbuende (Namibia), on the outcome of the regional meeting on the theme "African agriculture in the 21st century: meeting the challenges, making a sustainable green revolution", held in Windhoek on 9 and 10 February 2009.

9. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman, Javad Amin Mansour (Iran (Islamic Republic of)), on the outcome of the intersessional event on the theme "Capacity development workshop for improving agricultural productivity, water use efficiency and rural livelihoods", held in Bangkok from 28 to 30 January 2009.

10. Also at the 1st meeting, the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa, on behalf of the regional commissions, presented regional perspectives on policy options and possible actions relevant to the six thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, addressing the region-specific obstacles and constraints identified during the review year.

11. At the 2nd meeting, on 23 February, the representatives of major groups presented their views on policy options and possible actions relevant to the six thematic issues, as contained in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Major groups priorities for action in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa" (E/CN.17/2009/10). Statements were made by the representatives of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, on behalf of the women's sector; SustainUS, on behalf of the children and youth sector; Tebtebba-Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, on behalf of the indigenous peoples sector; Heifer International, on behalf of the non-governmental organizations sector; Local Governments for Sustainability, on behalf of the local authorities' sector; the International Trade Union Confederation, on behalf of the workers and trade unions sector; Croplife International, on behalf of the business and industry sector; the International

Council for Science, on behalf of the scientific and technological community; and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, on behalf of the farming sector.

12. Participation by major groups included representatives of 38 accredited organizations. Their views on policy options and possible actions relevant to the themes of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa were integrated into the thematic discussions that were held throughout the week. Representatives from four major groups served as expert panellists during the thematic discussions and representatives from each major group were invited to make closing remarks at the conclusion of the meeting.

13. At the 2nd meeting, on 23 February, an interactive panel discussion was held on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation in the areas of the six thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, relating to small island developing States. The panellists were Djaheezah Subratty (Ministry of Environment, Mauritius), Donovan Stanberry (Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica) and Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia (Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations). The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

14. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 24 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of agriculture. The panellists were Sara Scherr, founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of ECOagriculture Partners, and Norman T. Uphoff, Professor of Government and International Agriculture at Cornell University. The Vice-Chairperson-designate, Ms. Raguz, summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

15. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 24 and 25 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of rural development. The panellists were Tim Hanstad, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rural Development Institute; and Rosalud de la Rosa, founding Chair of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

16. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of land. The panellists were Harold Liversage, Land Tenure Adviser for the International Fund for Agricultural Development; John W. Bruce, head of the consulting firm, Land and Development Solutions International; and Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

17. At its 6th meeting, on 25 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of drought. The panellists were Constance L. Neely, Vice-President for Advocacy at Heifer International; and Jeff Herrick, a research scientist with the Jornada Experimental Range of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

18. At its 7th meeting, on 26 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of desertification. The panellists were Alemneh Dejene, Senior Officer of Sustainable Development Policy at the Natural Resource Management and Environment Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and Melchiade Bukuru, Chief of the Liaison Office, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

19. At its 8th meeting, on 26 February, the Meeting held an interactive panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of Africa. The panellists were Kaddu Sebunya, Director of Programme for Technical Design at the African Wildlife Foundation; and Kobie Brand, Regional Director of ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability at the Africa secretariat. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

20. At its 9th meeting, on 27 February, the Meeting held an interactive discussion on policy options and possible actions to address barriers and constraints in relation to interlinkages among the six thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, as well as cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation. The panellists were Erick Fernandes, Adviser for Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank; Nnimmo Bassey, human/environmental rights activist and Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action; and Paul Collier, Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics, Oxford University. The Chairperson summarized the salient points raised during the interactive discussion.

D. Attendance

21. The Meeting was attended by representatives of 51 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental organizations and major groups also attended.

22. The list of participants of the Meeting is contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2009/INF.1.

E. Documentation

23. The Meeting had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: agriculture (E/CN.17/2009/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: rural development (E/CN.17/2009/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: land (E/CN.17/2009/5);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: drought (E/CN.17/2009/6);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: desertification (E/CN.17/2009/7);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: Africa (E/CN.17/2009/8);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: interlinkages and cross-cutting issues (E/CN.17/2009/9);

(h) Note by the Secretariat on major groups priorities for action in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa (E/CN.17/2009/10);

(i) Letter dated 15 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the statement of African Ministers emanating from the African ministerial retreat held at Glen Cove, New York, on 10 and 11 May 2008 (E/CN.17/2009/12).

II. Chairman's draft negotiating text

24. The Chairperson proposed that the following draft negotiating text be transmitted to the Commission for its consideration in May 2009:

The Commission on Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, particularly its principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Also reaffirming the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Reaffirming that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Also reaffirming that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable pattern of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resources base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Reaffirming the Declaration of the High-level Conference on World Food Security (The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy), adopted in Rome, 5 June 2008,

Taking note of the outcomes of the two intersessional meetings of the Commission held in Bangkok, from 28 to 30 January 2009 and in Windhoek on 9 and 10 February 2009, namely, the Summary of Recommendations of the Capacity Development Workshop for Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Rural Livelihoods, and the Windhoek High-level Ministerial Declaration on African Agriculture in the twenty-first Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution,

Emphasizing that strong linkages exist among the six issues on the agenda of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development and that policies and measures aimed at one issue may have co-benefits for others,

Also emphasizing that addressing the cross-cutting issues and interlinkages as defined by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session is vital in achieving sustainable development,

Noting that for many years agriculture and rural development have been neglected by Governments and the international community,

Deeply concerned that the international community is now challenged by the severe impact on sustainable development of multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as increased food insecurity, high food prices and the instability of food and energy prices and supplies, climate change and a global financial crisis, which may jeopardize the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Mindful of the growing scarcities of many natural resources and the competing claims to their use,

Convinced of the urgency of the challenges we face and of the need for a bold, determined and innovative response to those crises, namely, one which protects the development gains of the past decades and accelerates progress towards sustainable development,

Recognizing that this calls for a sustainable green revolution with farmers and rural communities at the centre — one based on a combination of traditional knowledge and practices specific to different agroecosystems and the best available science and technology and methods for sustainable land, plant, soil, livestock and water management,

Appreciating that there are many successful experiences and best practices on the ground and that a key challenge we face is how to replicate, adapt and scale up what we know works,

Convinced that implementation strategies must be "bottom-up" and integrate the local consultation and the participation of all stakeholders in decision-making,

Taking note of the report of the sixteenth session of the Commission and the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for its seventeenth session,

Noting the previously agreed provisions and decisions in relation to the thematic cluster, including the decisions taken at the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see Ref: E/CN.17/2000/20),

Decides to call upon Governments and the United Nations system, working in partnership with major groups and other stakeholders, to take the responsibility for the implementation of actions as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

A. Agriculture

1. In the past few years, agriculture has risen once more to the top of national and international policy agendas. Agriculture lies at the centre of sustainable development. It plays a crucial role in addressing the food security needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication and attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Boosting agricultural productivity is essential and needs to be done in ways that are both socially equitable and environmentally sustainable. Farmers, especially small farmers, need to be central actors in a sustainable, home-grown green revolution, with a sound balance and mutually beneficial linkages between small-scale and large-scale agriculture. Such a green revolution needs to be adapted to local agroecosystems and climate, building on local knowledge and experience while availing of the best available science, technology and know-how. Agriculture is heavily dependent on climate and sensitive to climate change, and sustainable agricultural practices can contribute importantly to both mitigation and adaptation. Sustainable soil, land, livestock and water management practices, and adapted and resilient crops are essential. To realize a sustainable green revolution, the following actions will be required at the local, national, regional and global levels:

(a) *Enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability*. In that context:

(i) Employ science-based agricultural management methods and new technologies that capitalize on existing plant genetic potential, availing of knowledge of soil biology, while undertaking research and development on further genetic improvements;

(ii) Promote the use of improved soil conservation techniques, especially to restore degraded land;

(iii) Encourage adoption of ecosystem-based farming practices, such as conservation agriculture and, as appropriate, organic agriculture, relying on local resources as much as possible;

(iv) Expand public investments and incentives, in particular for small-scale producers, to increase production of traditional food crops and livestock and accelerate the transition to more sustainable practices;

(v) Conserve in situ, and through gene banks, the rich biodiversity that strengthens the resilience of agriculture and enhances food security;

(vi) Adopt a comprehensive approach to the management and control of invasive species, which are a leading threat to biodiversity, local livelihoods, food security, environment and human health;

(vii) Provide targeted and timely support to farmers, in particular small-scale farmers, in developing countries for accessing affordable inputs to boost agricultural production;

(viii) Institute effective pesticide monitoring programmes to limit risks to farmers, agricultural workers, rural communities, consumers and the natural environment, and encourage the use of integrated pest management;

(ix) Make credit and other financial facilities more readily available to farmers, in particular small-scale farmers, woman farmers and rural cooperatives, including through loan subsidies and guarantees and microcredit;

(b) *Create a strong enabling environment for agriculture*. In that context:

(i) Establish favourable conditions for agriculture and rural entrepreneurship to thrive, including by providing secure tenure rights, investing in infrastructure, building rural institutions and providing broad rural access to quality health care and education, and training;

(ii) Raise the share of government budgets devoted to agriculture, increase the agriculture and rural development share of official development assistance and mobilize new and additional resources from all sources;

(iii) Encourage greater direct investment, including foreign direct investment, in the agriculture sector in developing countries, in particular in Africa, to support their efforts to boost agricultural production;

(iv) Step up national and international investment in agriculture and livestock research and development, including in the centres affiliated with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and allocate resources for research on climate change, adapted and resilient crop varieties and farming systems adapted to climate change;

(v) Establish and strengthen links between research institutions, extension services and farmers, empowering and training farmers to be both innovators and effective extension workers;

(vi) Provide increased technical and financial assistance to developing countries to strengthen national innovation capacity, training and extension services in agriculture, fish, livestock and integrated crop-forest and crop-livestock production systems;

(c) *Manage sustainably competing uses of water and land resources*. In that context:

(i) Implement efficient water resources development and management schemes, including at the basin level, and improve irrigation efficiencies and on-farm water management practices to overcome water shortages and enhance food security;

(ii) Seize opportunities offered by sustainable biofuels production to raise the income of farmers, attract investments into agriculture, which can contribute to

enhancing food security, and mitigate climate change, avoiding competition for productive arable land and displacement of small farmers and pastoralists;

(iii) Conduct further research and develop second and third generation biofuels;

(iv) Foster scientific and technical cooperation, including North-South and South-South cooperation, in the development, inter alia, of sustainable bioenergy production, arid and semi-arid agriculture, and in combating desertification;

(d) *Develop sustainable agricultural value chains and improve the market access of farmers*. In that context:

(i) Sustainably develop the production and marketing of high-value crops and the processing of high-value agricultural products, including by increasing the contribution of indigenous products to the tourism industry;

(ii) Diffuse more widely pre- and post-harvest technologies to enable farmers to realize greater value from their crops;

(iii) Develop food testing facilities, processing equipment and improved storage techniques, to enhance food quality and safety;

(iv) Build efficient and effective agricultural marketing institutions, including small-scale market infrastructure, and distribution networks, and enhance the availability of market information to farmers and farmer organizations through the effective use of information and communications technologies;

(v) Advance the process of regional trade integration, including in Africa, thereby expanding markets and permitting economies of scale in agro-processing and agricultural input production;

(vi) Support developing country agricultural producers and processors to enable them to meet the agreed sanitary and phytosanitary standards;

(vii) Assist developing countries through aid-for-trade initiatives to diversify their agriculture and rural economic base and build competitive export supply capacities;

(viii) Ensure improved market access for the agricultural exports of developing countries, including processed agricultural exports;

(ix) Promote a multilateral trading system, as well as regional trading arrangements, that are more supportive of agriculture, including through the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries;

(e) *Provide secure access to food and social safety nets*. In that context:

(i) Develop and implement national food security strategies, including information and early warning systems and social safety nets, to minimize risks and mitigate the effects of high food prices on the most vulnerable;

(ii) Encourage local food procurement, linking food aid with the development of local sustainable agricultural production and marketing capacities;

(iii) Invite international financial institutions and other funding agencies to put in place, as needed, streamlined procedures for timely disbursal of funds for food and agricultural input purchases;

(iv) Develop and establish national, regional and global food security reserves or stocks to facilitate a rapid response to humanitarian situations and stabilize supply in the face of shortages of staple food commodities in the event of disasters and other emergencies;

(v) Strengthen and coordinate the international community's response to the global food crisis and longer-term support to agriculture;

(vi) Strengthen analysis and oversight of food commodity and futures markets to limit the impacts of speculation on price volatility.

B. Rural development

2. Sustainable rural development is vital to the economic, social and environmental viability of nations. It is essential to the attainment of poverty eradication since global poverty is overwhelmingly rural. A healthy and dynamic agriculture is the foundation of rural development, generating strong linkages to other economic sectors. Close economic integration of rural areas with neighbouring urban areas and the creation of rural off-farm employment can narrow rural/urban income disparities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in rural areas. There is considerable potential for rural job creation not only in farming, agro-processing and rural industry but also in building rural infrastructure and in the management of natural resources. Investments in rural infrastructure and in rural health and education are critical to sustainable rural development. The vulnerabilities of the rural poor to the economic and financial crisis and to climate change must be addressed. Related actions include:

(a) *Build social capital and resilience in rural communities*. In that context:

(i) Empower women and small-scale farmers, including through secure land tenure rights, including inheritance;

(ii) Promote equitable access to land, water, financial resources and technologies of women, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups;

(iii) Provide mechanisms to farmers in developing countries to better manage the various risks they face, including price, weather, climate and natural disasters, including by providing humanitarian aid and promoting the development of agricultural insurance markets;

(iv) Effectively utilize traditional and indigenous knowledge for the management of natural resources to address the dual challenge of resource conservation and poverty eradication;

(v) Build the resilience of rural communities to cope with and recover from natural disasters and conflicts;

(vi) Promote and scale up labour-intensive recovery activities instead of capital-intensive programmes;

(b) *Strengthen the human capacities of rural people*. In that context:

(i) Strengthen rural health-care facilities, train and increase the number of health professionals and sustain primary health-care systems in rural areas, in particular in Africa, for effective disease prevention and treatment;

(ii) Provide basic education and vocational and entrepreneurship training to build capacities within rural communities, in particular for youth and women;

(c) *Invest in essential infrastructure and services for rural communities*. In that context:

(i) Increase public and private investments in infrastructure in rural areas, including roads, waterways and transport systems, storage facilities, livestock facilities, irrigation systems, water supply and sanitation services, electrification facilities, and information and communications networks;

(ii) Improve access to reliable and affordable energy services, including renewable and alternative sources of energy for rural development;

(iii) Enhance access to safe and adequate water and sanitation services;

(iv) Improve access of rural populations to information and communications technologies;

(v) Develop rural public and private services that realize the potential of those technologies, including cellular banking and e-extension services;

(d) *Stimulate the creation of new jobs and income opportunities in rural areas*. In that context:

(i) Support on-farm diversification towards non-agricultural activities;

(ii) Provide credit and other support to off-farm activities;

(iii) Strengthen the links between agriculture and other sectors of the rural economy;

(iv) Support sustainable tourism as a valuable supplement to farming activity, as well as sustainable natural resource management;

(v) Increase access of rural populations to markets and financial services, including through microcredit, loan guarantees and venture capital;

(vi) Use policies and tools to enhance the provision of ecosystem services;

(vii) Encourage data collection, synthesis and analysis to enhance the understanding of the contribution of non-farming activities to poverty reduction and income generation in rural areas.

C. Land

3. Land plays a crucial role for achieving poverty eradication, food security and sustainable development. Sustainable land management provides multiple benefits, such as sustaining agricultural productivity and food security, providing ecosystem services, sequestering carbon and regulating climate. Land policies need to promote sustainable land management, effective administration, integrated planning and equitable land access. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Promote sustainable and integrated land planning and land management practices*. In that context:

(i) Ensure a balance between environmental sustainability, rural livelihoods and food productivity in land policies and land management;

(ii) Implement long-term land use strategies and spatial planning strategies;

(iii) Strengthen national capacities for implementing an integrated approach to land management, including in the planning of rural and urban areas;

(iv) Strengthen partnerships and the participation of all stakeholders in land planning and management, to achieve consensus on community land resource allocation and management and to incorporate community goals and indigenous knowledge;

(v) Incorporate green infrastructure in land-use planning and help communities to identify which lands to conserve and which lands would best accommodate development;

(vi) Promote transparent and decentralized land administration;

(vii) Provide incentives, including financial resources, for public and private investments in sustainable land management and reducing land degradation, and provide access to credit for small-scale farmers;

(viii) Promote sustainable forest management as an integral part of sustainable land management;

(ix) Scale up the dissemination and adoption of safe and science-based practices, products and technologies that enhance the sustainable use of land resources, taking into account local conditions;

(x) Establish centres of excellence in developing countries in land policy, tenure and management;

(xi) Develop a set of global land policy indicators for policy review, monitoring and evaluation;

(xii) Utilize the best available technologies for the implementation of sustainable land management, including a Geographic Information System for land administration and municipal planning, satellite imagery for land use mapping and continuously operating reference stations for use in land surveying;

(xiii) Develop risk management tools that build landscape resilience;

(xiv) Establish knowledge management networks and a database of land experts;

(xv) Promote the exchange of information on new and improved technologies and best practices, in particular through South-South cooperation;

(b) *Reduce land degradation and rehabilitate degraded land.* In that context:

(i) Conserve and protect land and soil resources, including on arid and semi-arid lands, through practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, ecoagriculture and diversification and reduced tillage;

(ii) Implement policies that address the direct and indirect drivers of degradation, such as desertification, erosion, salinization, pollution and urbanization, and that also lead to the recovery of the soil's physical integrity,

improving the nutrient status and increasing the amount of organic matter in the soil;

(iii) Develop capacities and apply new and existing tools and technologies for monitoring soil quality and land degradation and for evaluating related biophysical and socio-economic information;

(c) *Manage water and land resources in an integrated manner.* In that context:

(i) Promote efficient and sustainable use of water resources, including groundwater, and ensure a balance between the different water uses and ecosystems;

(ii) Establish appropriate management arrangements and links between resources;

(iii) Strengthen the coordination and cooperation among authorities responsible for managing water and land resources;

(iv) Improve the efficiency of irrigation and the use of rainfall harvesting;

(v) Reduce coastal erosion and land losses caused by sea-level rise, in particular in small island developing States;

(vi) Address the problems, in particular in small island developing States, of saltwater intrusion into freshwater supplies and agricultural land;

(d) *Establish clear and secure land tenure, in particular for women, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups.* In that context:

(i) Establish a clear land tenure and registration system along with an effective land administration system to help promote investments and good land management, making use of the latest information technologies;

(ii) Strengthen the institutional and legal framework for the administration of property rights, including the recognition of customary tenure arrangements and local practices;

(iii) Establish information dissemination mechanisms and civic education campaigns on land rights;

(iv) Create a menu of options to document and recognize all forms of land rights;

(v) Grant secure and enforceable land rights to women, indigenous peoples and local communities;

(vi) Accompany policies that promote secure access to land with measures to support the productive use of land resources, including farmer training and access to credit;

(e) *Develop and implement equitable access to land systems.* In that context:

(i) Ensure that pastoralist grazing rights are adequately protected;

(ii) Broaden land access to the poor through the development of lease and rental markets;

(iii) Establish accessible land registration, in particular for the urban and rural poor;

(iv) Enable women to play an equitable role in decision-making related to land management and planning and access to land.

D. Drought

4 Drought continues to threaten the livelihoods of millions of people. Combating drought is necessary to achieving sustainable development goals and improving the livelihoods of millions of people living in drought-prone regions. The effects of climate change heighten the risk of droughts and increase the need for effective drought management. Drought must be addressed in an integrated fashion with the other themes of the current Commission on Sustainable Development cycle, considering social, economic and environmental aspects. Strategies for drought prevention and management should be incorporated into sustainable agricultural practices, soil conservation, crop diversification and integrated water basin management. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Create a robust enabling environment for drought preparedness and mitigation*. In that context:

(i) Prepare national drought risk reduction strategies;

(ii) Support more proactive drought risk-management approaches;

(iii) Promote and implement effective national and regional drought information, forecasting and early warning systems that disseminate reliable information for communities living in drought-prone regions to enable them to take appropriate measures, with adequate support from their respective Governments and the international community;

(iv) Implement afforestation and reforestation to prevent drought and desertification and the negative impacts of climate change;

(v) Promote monitoring and sustainable management of soil carbon stocks, to take full advantage of soil's potential as a carbon sink;

(vi) Promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and partnering for capacity-building and improving effectiveness in planning, monitoring and implementation of drought plans;

(b) *Strengthen the knowledge base and information-sharing on drought*. In that context:

(i) Invest in research, robust data collection, including through remote sensing, and standardized information to quantify risk and to predict, plan for and manage droughts;

(ii) Promote the exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned in relation to drought risk management and reduction and increase public awareness about traditional and adaptable practices;

(iii) Establish drought and desertification-related national indicators and benchmarks and related web-based information systems;

(iv) Establish a unified standard drought index for use around the world and in the full range of drought conditions and ecosystems to facilitate the compilation and reporting of drought conditions;

(v) Increase knowledge-sharing and information on weather forecasts and climatic conditions among local, regional and global stakeholders;

(vi) Increase funding and support for research and development on the underlying causes and effects of drought, including social and environmental perspectives;

(c) *Enhance the resilience of communities to drought.* In that context:

(i) Enhance social and economic resilience in drought-prone communities by encouraging community-based land tenure, based on good governance principles, mixed livestock production and cropping, the implementation of water management schemes and the expansion of index-based weather insurance schemes;

(ii) Provide funding for research and development of drought-tolerant seed varieties and widespread access to such varieties, in particular in drought-prone countries in the developing world;

(iii) Promote sustainable land-use practices aimed at combating and adapting to drought, such as replanting logged areas with high-temperature-tolerant trees and thinning drought-stressed forests;

(iv) Promote innovative technical solutions and practices, combining them with traditional knowledge, for sustainable integrated water management, such as efficient irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting, and water recycling;

(d) *Enhance capacity-building, technology transfer and financing.* In that context:

(i) Promote access to affordable, appropriate and necessary technology and provide corresponding capacity-building to enable sustainable and efficient use of scarce resources and arable land;

(ii) Provide technical and financial means to implement national and regional early warning systems, allowing for rapid mitigation and adaptation to drought and improved drought management plans;

(iii) Strengthen cooperation among the three Rio Conventions while respecting their individual mandates.

E. Desertification

5. Desertification and land degradation continue to adversely affect agricultural activities, rural and urban development, land use, water resources and efforts to eradicate hunger and promote health and well-being in desert and adjacent areas. Combating desertification and land degradation requires policies that link land use and livelihoods to the goals of sustainable development, taking into account the impacts of climate change on land degradation and desertification. Addressing desertification is an essential part of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and mitigation of global biodiversity losses. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Strengthen the institutional framework for policy implementation.* In that context:

(i) Integrate national action plans into development frameworks, such as national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies and other relevant programmes;

(ii) Ensure that national action plans in small island developing States address desertification of coastal areas;

(iii) Support the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as well as the 10-year strategic plan, including through regional and international cooperation, provision of adequate and predictable financing, technology transfer and capacity-building;

(b) *Implement practical measures to combat land degradation and desertification.* In that context:

(i) Promote sustainable land use and livelihoods, enhanced soil productivity, water use efficiency and greater tenure security for people living in drylands;

(ii) Protect land resources through community-based natural resources management;

(iii) Promote the rehabilitation and improved management of degraded lands, including increased integration of pastoral and agricultural land uses;

(iv) Develop farming practices that promote water conservation and management, including efficient irrigation and utilization of alternative water sources, such as wastewater reclamation;

(v) Encourage land users to invest in soil and water conservation, including through land tenure security and access rights to land and natural resources for the rural poor, including women;

(vi) Promote agroforestry, reforestation and afforestation, which reduce soil erosion and promote soil water retention;

(vii) Adopt measures to prevent and minimize sandstorms and sand dune movement, inter alia, by strengthening early warning systems and developing plantations;

(viii) Support traditional and local knowledge and practices concerning land use, water management and agricultural activities;

(c) *Enhance capacity-building, transfer technology and financing.* In that context:

(i) Promote scientific research and strengthen the scientific base on desertification and drought, which is essential to informed decision-making on sustainable land management and to measuring the results and impact of programmes combating desertification;

(ii) Support the establishment of disaster management capacities at regional levels, including information and early warning systems that allow effective

management of risks associated with drought, desertification, land degradation and climate change;

(iii) Expand access to appropriate technologies to assess, analyse and quantify the nature, severity and impacts of land degradation and desertification, and remedial actions, using remote sensing and the Geographical Information System;

(iv) Compile, share and scale up best practices and lessons learned in approaches undertaken at various levels to combat desertification;

(v) Strengthen cooperation among the three Rio Conventions while respecting their individual mandates;

(vi) Build the capacity of affected communities to deal with the impacts of desertification by promoting participation, including through participatory approaches that involve local communities, indigenous people, and civil society, in particular women in decision-making and policy formulation;

(vii) Invest in the sustainable management of land, forests and other natural resources;

(viii) Make available increased and additional financial resources for sustainable land management, including through the Global Environment Facility;

(ix) Mobilize new and additional financial resources for the global mechanism for the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

(x) Enhance regional cooperation, including the African Union Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative, and global cooperation, North-South, South-South and triangular;

(xi) Strengthen international development cooperation, including official development assistance, by providing adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources aimed at combating desertification and land degradation.

F. Africa

6. Strong economic performance in Africa is evidence of a growing enabling environment for sustainable development. African countries have taken the leadership in addressing sustainable development challenges, including challenges for sustainable agricultural development, and charting the way forward at the national, regional and continental levels, through such initiatives as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Nonetheless, average gross domestic product growth remains below the minimum target of 7 per cent set by NEPAD and has often occurred in sectors with little impact on employment and income for the majority. Africa still faces daunting challenges, including insufficient investment in agriculture. Africa needs a uniquely African green revolution to help boost agricultural productivity, food production and national and regional food security. This would provide a strong foundation for addressing rural poverty, land degradation, drought and desertification. The ongoing multiple global crises pose a

serious challenge to the sustainable development prospects of Africa, including sustainable agricultural development. Actions are therefore required at the national, regional and global levels to support a sustainable African green revolution and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of Africa's sustainable development. Actions are needed to:

(a) *Revitalize agriculture as the basis for sustainable rural development.* In that context:

(i) Implement the High-level Ministerial Declaration on African Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution, adopted in Windhoek on 10 February 2009;

(ii) Accelerate the realization of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of NEPAD, which provides a valuable framework;

(iii) Achieve the Maputo Declaration target of allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgets for agriculture and rural development;

(iv) Stimulate private investments in agriculture;

(v) Increase donor support for further development of African agriculture to complement domestic resource mobilization;

(vi) Increase research and development efforts for sustainable agriculture and rural development;

(vii) Enhance security of land tenure and promote equitable access to land, in particular for women;

(viii) Improve land governance and reduce land conflicts;

(ix) Take measures to boost productivity and sustainability, including by easing access to microfinance by women farmers;

(x) Incorporate the social aspects of agricultural transformation into policy decisions, including managing rural-urban migrations, including through strong urban job creation;

(b) *Integrate African farmers into agricultural supply chain.* In that context:

(i) Provide timely access by farmers to affordable inputs and credit and access to insurance instruments;

(ii) Improve market infrastructure and market information systems;

(iii) Build infrastructure to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses;

(iv) Foster agro-industries and generating local value added where there is a comparative advantage;

(v) Encourage agro-ecological practices;

(c) *Promote an enabling environment for sustainable development.* In that context:

(i) Strive, with the support of the international community, to prevent conflicts, resolve current conflicts and provide support to countries emerging from conflicts;

(ii) Respect fundamental democratic and good governance principles and reinforce institutional capacities in local and central governments;

(iii) Encourage broad public participation of civil society as a partner, in particular in responding to food insecurity;

(d) *Ensure the integration of Africa into world trade.* In that context:

(i) Better integrate farmers into world markets;

(ii) Accelerate Africa's regional integration and integration into world markets;

(iii) Encourage a successful and timely conclusion of the Doha Development Round in a way that advances the interests of developing countries, in particular African countries;

(iv) Encourage further coordination among the African Union, NEPAD partners and the regional economic communities;

(e) *Continue to reduce the debt burden of African countries.* In that context:

(i) Ensure additional actions including by both Paris Club and non-Paris Club donors to relieve the debt burden of African countries;

(ii) Extend debt relief even to those countries that are not eligible for HIPC assistance;

(f) *Increase development aid to Africa.* In that context:

(i) Scale up international community support for the implementation of various programmes under the auspices of NEPAD, in particular the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the NEPAD environment programme;

(ii) Ensure that commitments to double official development assistance to Africa by 2010 are being met in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals, in particular poverty eradication;

(iii) Ensure that increases in the volume of official development assistance are accompanied by improvements in official development assistance quality and predictability;

(iv) Align official development assistance with the national priorities and systems of recipient countries so as to increase national ownership and effectiveness;

(v) Increase resources devoted to North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

(g) *Increase domestic and foreign investment.* In that context:

(i) Increase investment in all types of infrastructure and maintenance of existing infrastructure, in particular rural infrastructure to support rural development, and investment in renewable energy;

(ii) Increase private capital flows to Africa by developing a conducive investment climate through international cooperation and global partnership;

(iii) Support economic diversification through investments and focus on activities that add value for exports;

(h) *Improve income distribution and promote social development.* In that context:

(i) Increase the benefits to the general population of revenues from extractive industries;

(ii) Increase national expenditures on and international aid flows to water and sanitation, as well as for capacity-building, promotion of integrated management of water resources and public-private partnerships;

(iii) Strengthen health systems, focusing in particular on reducing maternal mortality and responding to HIV/AIDS and malaria;

(iv) Improve the quality of education, focusing in particular on women's education and education in post-conflict areas;

(v) Establish centres of excellence for the whole knowledge and higher education system;

(i) *Promote, enable and support adaptation to climate change.* In that context:

(i) Support Africa to make the most of international instruments, both existing and future, related to climate change finance and capacity-building, including the Clean Development Mechanism;

(ii) Mobilize new financial resources from all sources to develop and strengthen the capacities of the African countries to adapt to climate change;

(iii) Support the African Union Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative;

(iv) Encourage transfer of adapted technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation and for combating desertification;

(v) Support integrated planning and management of water resources;

(vi) Improve the management of transboundary water resources.

G. Interlinkages, cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation

7. Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation should be multidisciplinary, multisectoral and mutually reinforcing. Policy options should take into consideration the interlinkages among the issues and thematic clusters in order to realize synergies and co-benefits.

8. National sustainable development strategies should address in an integrated manner the social, economic and environmental pillars, including the social dimension of globalization, gender equality and stakeholder ownership and participation. Strategic assessments of such strategies can be useful.

9. Revitalizing agriculture and promoting rural development can make an important contribution to eradicating poverty and hunger and to achieving food security as well as to improved health, the empowerment of women and the creation of productive employment opportunities for women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities. Actions are needed to:

(a) Improve funding of public health systems to strengthen health-care systems, including for combating diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS;

(b) Promote universal primary education in rural areas and broaden education opportunities at all levels, as well as training programmes for rural youth;

(c) Strengthen international capacity-building initiatives that assess health and environmental linkages to improve the knowledge base for national and regional policy responses to environmental threats to health;

(d) Undertake measures to improve and sustain the livelihoods of vulnerable groups such as women, children, seniors, nomadic pastoralists, indigenous peoples, disabled people and people living in very remote areas in developing countries;

(e) Empower rural women and promote secure land tenure for women farmers; target capacity-building strategies at women farmers and women-headed households;

(f) Strengthen the human resource and institutional capacity of small island developing States for integrated rural development and sustainable management of natural resources, including in coastal zones and marine fisheries, and build the capacity of small island developing States rural communities to help themselves, including by empowering women and youth.

10. Promoting sustainable patterns of production and consumption is an issue which cuts across a number of themes, notably agriculture and food. Agriculture and land-use change are significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, but sustainable agricultural practices can provide important carbon storage benefits as well as helping to protect the natural resource base. Actions in relation to these cross-cutting issues include:

(a) Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

(b) Support sustainable agricultural production including alternative methods of farming;

(c) Encourage science-based, life cycle approaches which can help promote more sustainable production practices and offer consumers more sustainable consumption choices.

11. Climate change has emerged as a cross-cutting issue that can threaten the implementation of both cross-sectoral and sectoral sustainable development plans and should therefore be addressed in the context of sustainable development. Actions are needed to:

(a) Scale up and mainstream climate change adaptation measures in agricultural and rural development strategies, sustainable land management and action plans to combat desertification and drought;

(b) Monitor and assess the impact of climate change on agriculture;

(c) Support the development, transfer and diffusion of new, improved and resilient crop varieties and soil management methods to decrease vulnerabilities to, and enhance mitigation of, climate change;

(d) Optimize agricultural practices to increase soil carbon content, including through the use of biochar, for increased agricultural productivity and carbon sequestration;

(e) Foster regional exchanges to disseminate knowledge and experience on adaptation strategies in agriculture among countries facing similar climatic conditions;

(f) Integrate land-use planning and sustainable land management in strategies to adapt to climate change;

(g) Integrate climate change risks into plans to combat drought and desertification;

(h) Implement the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in a manner that addresses climate change adaptation needs.

12. The means of implementation encompass a range of policy options and practical measures, including preparation and implementation of cross-sectoral and sectoral sustainable development strategies; the creation and sound functioning of a variety of institutions, including research, extension, marketing, quality control and food safety; investments in rural infrastructure and structures; development and enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to land, in particular land tenure rights; the facilitation of the scaling up of success stories; and international cooperation, including financing, technology transfer, trade promotion and market access, and capacity-building. Local and national means of implementation specific to the thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 have been addressed earlier in the present document; the actions set out below focus principally on international cooperation:

(a) *Enhance availability of finance for sustainable development*. In that context:

(i) Increase developed country official development assistance to developing countries on a sustained and predictable basis in line with the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and fulfil the commitments of the Doha Review Conference on financing for development;

(ii) Enhance aid effectiveness by adhering to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness;

(iii) Enhance multilateral support from the Global Environment Facility and international financial institutions, as well as support from the Adaptation Fund of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(iv) Create an enabling environment for private capital flows, including foreign direct investment, to boost economic growth and contribute to technology transfer, employment generation, infrastructure development and improved access to managerial expertise, global capital and product markets, and marketing and distribution networks;

(v) Develop more efficient institutional mechanisms for debt management and sustainability, especially for the least developed countries;

(vi) Improve access to finance, including microfinance, and develop new and innovative sources and methods of finance;

(b) *Make the world trading system more equitable.* In that context:

(i) Promote a multilateral trading system, as well as regional trading arrangements, that are more supportive of agriculture, in particular through improved market access for the agricultural exports of developing countries, including processed agricultural exports, and through the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries;

(ii) Provide duty-free and quota-free access by least developed country exports to developed country and other markets;

(iii) Encourage a successful and timely conclusion of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations in order to help address the current challenges in the agriculture sector, bringing concrete benefits to farmers in developing countries, including least developed countries;

(c) *Enhance capacity-building efforts and transfer of technologies.* In that context:

(i) Implement targeted capacity-building programmes in areas relevant to the thematic cluster, their interlinkages and the cross-cutting issues, in coordination with local and national institutions;

(ii) Strengthen South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation to enhance financial resources, comprehensive capacity-building, and know-how and technology transfer, including in the thematic areas of the implementation cycle 2008-2009, such as sustainable land management and land planning;

(iii) Implement fully the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and put technology transfer as the focus of the United Nations development system;

(iv) Increase investments in research and development, in particular on sustainable agricultural technolcgies, and accelerate the transfer and diffusion of such technologies to reach all farmers, including those in remote rural areas;

(v) Enhance transfer of technologies to support sustainable agriculture and rural development, to combat drought and desertification, and to achieve a sustainable green revolution, in particular in Africa;

(d) *Follow-up.* In that context:

Institute a process to review implementation of decisions taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventeenth session.

III. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

25. At its 10th meeting, on 27 February 2009, the Meeting had before it the draft report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, as contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2009/L.1.

26. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the report and took note of the Chairman's draft negotiating document for transmittal to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventeenth session, to be held from 4 to 15 May 2009 (see para. 24 above).